THE WAY

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PARABLES COME TO LIFE THROUGH MUSIC

In our Christian Studies unit this term, students in Years 3 and 4 have read some of Jesus' parables. We have learnt that parables are simple stories Jesus told that contain a deeper, "heavenly" meaning. Trying to understand the deeper meaning has sometimes been a challenge, but there have been lots of excellent questions and discussion.

To help us remember and understand these stories, musician and children's entertainer Van Sereno has composed some catchy songs. We've been listening to many of these - from his album *Parables* during the term. Close friend and collaborator, our very own Mr Byron Mark, has also contributed to Van's music over several years.

Last Wednesday we were blessed to have Van Sereno join us to perform some of his songs. He asked the students about what they had learnt about the parables and it was great to hear their considered responses. Everyone sang and bopped along to his groovy rhythm guitar and soulful singing. Mr Mark also dropped in during the show and helped us to clap along. There were a few 'dad jokes' thrown in, which elicited plenty of giggles and groans. It was a fun event that left many of us wanting to hear more of Van's music.

On behalf of the staff and students, I would like to thank Van Sereno for sharing God's Word with us through song. We also appreciate the effort and initiative shown by Mr Mark in organising the visit. The mini concert certainly helped reinforce the effect of music on our learning and emotions. Upon leaving the hall, one student commented (with a smile), "I'll never be able to get those words out of my head now!"

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